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PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING THIS MANGA TO SUPPORT THE AUTHOR WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY!

148 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA

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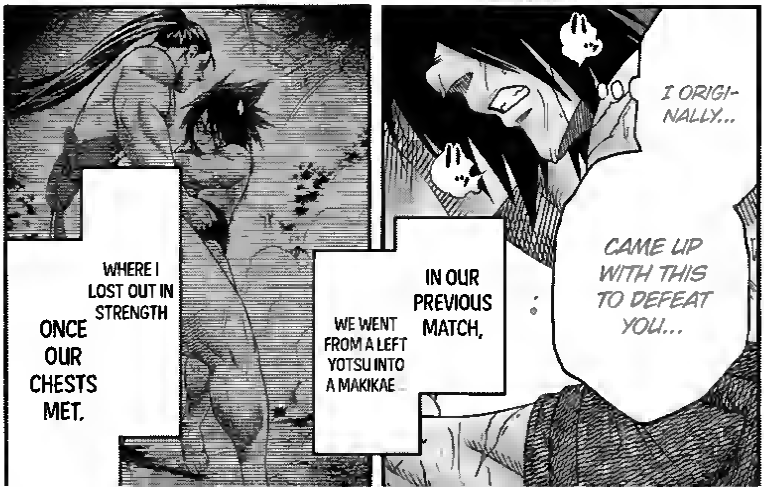
BROUGHT TO YOU BY FALLEN ANGELS

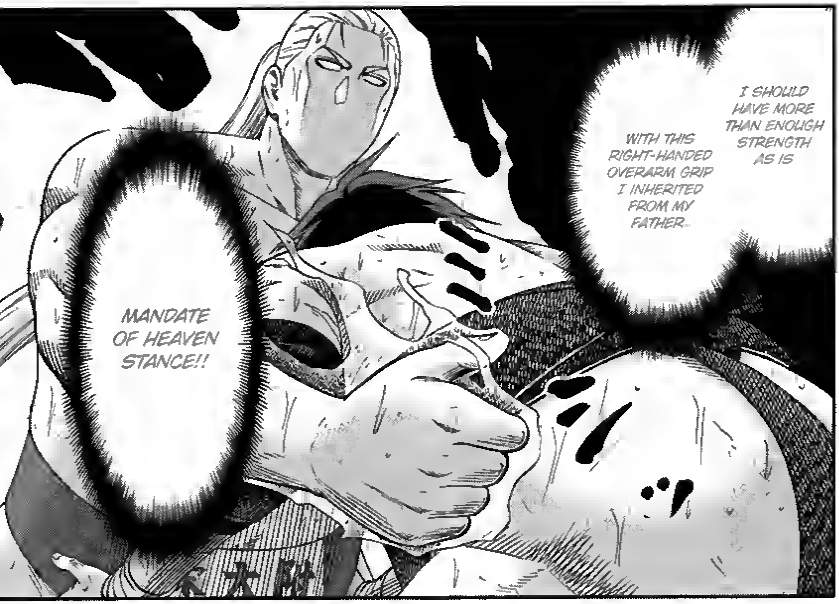
Round 140: Onimaru Kunitsuna "As Kusanagi No Tsurugi, Recollection

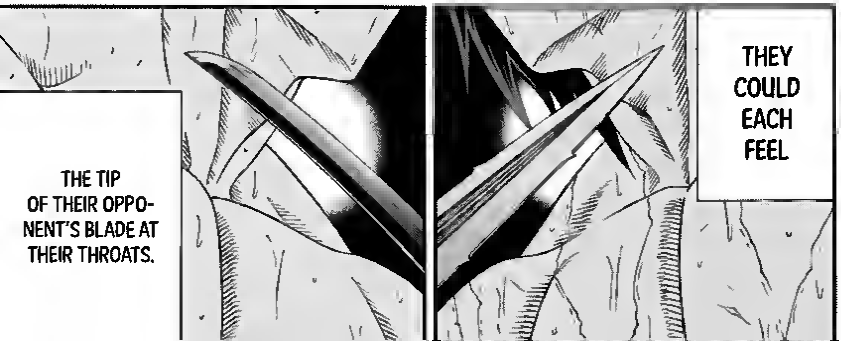

I ORIGI-NALLY...
CAME UP WITH THIS TO DEFEAT YOU...
IN OUR PREVIOUS MATCH,
WE WENT FROM A LEFT YOTSU INTO A MAKIKAE
WHERE I LOST OUT IN STRENGTH
ONCE OUR CHESTS MET,

TN: A "LEFT YOTSU" IS WHERE BOTH FIGHTERS HAVE AN UNDERARM GRIP ON THE BELT WITH THEIR LEFT HAND, AND AN OVERARM GRIP WITH THEIR RIGHT. A "MAKIKAE" IS WHEN THE RIGHT-HAND IS CHANGED TO AN UNDERARM GRIP.

FROM HERE ON OUT, I'LL BEGIN SHAKING YOU ENDLESSLY.
AND PLACE BOTH ARMS AT THE FRONT OF YOUR BELT.
THIS TIME, I'LL PRESS MY HEAD INTO YOUR CHEST,
THIS IS THE CONCLUSION I HAVE REACHED IN LIGHT OF MY LOSS.
MY ULTIMATE STANCE!!

I'D LIKE TO PUT MY ARM UNDER HIS LEFT AND BRING US CHEST TO CHEST, BUT... EVEN STILL...
AN OUTSIDE GRIP...
I WON'T JUST LET YOU GO WILD ON ME.
I AM ALREADY AWARE.

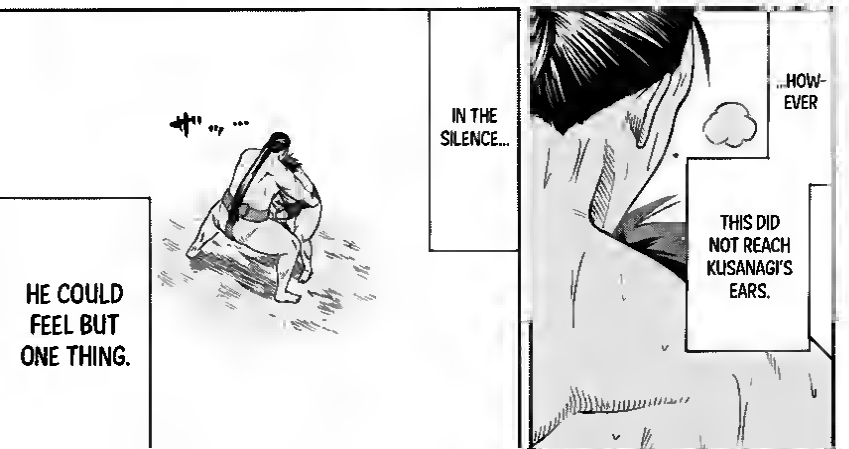

MANDATE OF HEAVEN STANCE!!
WITH THIS RIGHT-HANDED OVERARM GRIP I INHERITED FROM MY FATHER...
I SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH STRENGTH AS IS


THE TIP OF THEIR OPPONENT'S BLADE AT THEIR THROATS.
THEY COULD EACH FEEL

I'LL BE KILLED...!!
IF I RELAX FOR EVEN A MOMENT

WERE THE COUNTLESS EXCHANGES
I CAN SEE IT...
I WON'T LET YOU
INVISIBLE TO THE EYE
NOT THAT
THEY WERE USING TO KILL EACH OTHER
BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THIS STALEMATE.
NEITHER CAN MOVE.
MEAN-IN'...
THEY'RE EVEN...!

AS IF THE AUDIENCE HAD FORGOTTEN TO BREATHE
AND HAD TO STOP TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH..
THE APPLAUSE SUDDENLY BEGAN AGAIN.
パチ パチ パチ
パチ パチ


IN THE SILENCE...
..HOW-EVER
THIS DID NOT REACH KUSANAGI'S EARS.
HE COULD FEEL BUT ONE THING.

THE BLOOD-LUST
STANDING BEFORE HIM.
WHEN WAS IT
THAT MY FATHER SAID...
"YOKOZUNA ARE SOLITARY"?
BEYOND THE PATH THEY STAND, THERE LIES NO-ONE,
AND NO SIGN POSTS.
THEY CAN RELY ONLY UPON THEMSELVES.

KAORUYAMA DEFEATS THE YOKOZUNA!!
I COULD UNDERSTAND IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THAT MY FATHER WAS RISKING HIS LIFE ON A BATTLE-FIELD
I WAS STILL YOUNG HOWEVER
IT SEEMS YOUR FATHER HAS LOST...
ムス…
WHETHER MY FATHER WON OR LOST
HE WAS ALWAYS TRANQUIL BUT
THE BLOODLUST HE ALWAYS GAVE OFF NERVED ME
NOT WANTING TO DISTURB THAT EN-ERGY...
AS IF DOING SO WOULD INTERFERE WITH HIS MATCHES...
YOU PERFORMED ADMIRABLY TODAY FATHER
I BEHAVED LIKE ANY GOOD CHILD...

I DON'T RECALL
MY FATHER EVER ADVISING ME FOR OR AGAINST TAKING ON SUMO.
JUST, BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD A LOINCLOTH AROUND MY WAIST.
大和国
THINKING BACK ON IT
I MAY HAVE FOLLOWED IN HIS FOOT STEPS
TO CONVEY
THE RESPECT I FELT TOWARDS HIM
SEEING MY FATHER FIGHT DESPITE GETTING BEATEN AND BATTERED
I BELIEVE I ALSO HAD MY OWN DETERMINATION AS WELL HOWEVER
MEANT THAT SUMO WAS NEVER JUST "A GAME" TO ME

I WAS AWARE EVERYONE WAS TREATING ME AS THE GREAT YOKOZUNA'S SON
I COULD NOT TARNISH MY FATHER'S GREAT NAME.
IT WAS MY DUTY TO BECOME A GREAT YOKOZUNA JUST LIKE HE WAS.
I HAD TO BECOME STRONG
INNOCENT AS I WAS, I CONTINUED TO CHASE AFTER MY FATHER WHO WAS EVER SO FAR AWAY.
THE THOUGHT "SUMO IS FUN" NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND.
ARE YOU OKAY?
HA
HA...

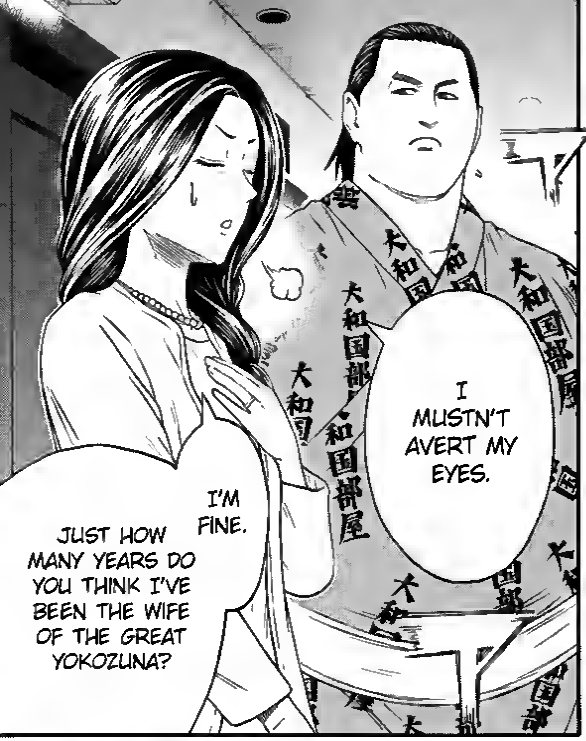
HA...
HA...
YOU REALLY CAN'T BEAT THAT YOKOZUNA BLOOD AFTER ALL
HE'S MORE STOIC THAN ANYONE IN THE STABLE
THE YOUNG MASTER IS INCREDIBLE
I'M SO ENVIOUS
HE IS DIFFERENT TO US
IS THE "SOLITUDE" FATHER SPOKE OF?
AAH, I WONDER IF THIS...

IF IT IS, THEN MY PATH MUST BE THE RIGHT ONE.
MISUNDERSTOOD BY OTHERS...
IN A PLACE WITH NO ONE ELSE AROUND, BESIDES MYSELF.
BEYOND HERE MUST BE WHERE MY FATHER STOOD. THE PEAK WHERE A "YOKOZUNA" RESIDES.
カリ
WHILE RUNNING AT THE HEAD OF THE PACK MAY BE SOLITARY...
.....
LOOK BESIDE YOU.
THEY SHOULD BE THERE FOR YOU TOO.

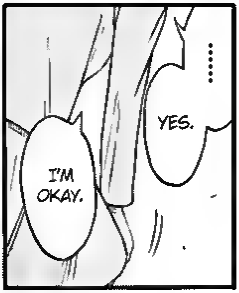
THOSE THAT UNDERSTAND YOU.
THOSE POSSESSING THE SAME GOAL...
THOSE THAT ARE ALSO RUNNING TO THAT "SOLITARY PEAK"...
YOUR WORTHY RIVALS.

THREE MONTHS AGO, I...
FACED YOU OF MY OWN WILL...
AND NOT OUT OF DUTY.
USHIO-KUN...
I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU.
.....
I YELLED WITH ALL MY MIGHT...
SO I WOULDN'T LOSE OUT TO YOUR ROARING, LIFE-BLAZING PRESENCE.
THAT MOMENT...
WAS A TURNING POINT FOR ME.
AND...
THE SAME IS TRUE NOW...
TCH.

IS SMILING...
.....
THAT BOY...


JUST HOW MANY YEARS DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN THE WIFE OF THE GREAT YOKOZUNA?
I'M FINE.
I MUSTN'T AVERT MY EYES.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MY LADY?


I'M OKAY.
YES.

HINO-MARU.
C'MON.

I MUST WITNESS MY SON'S GROWTH FIRST HAND.
AS A MOTHER...

YOUR MOTHER...
IS WATCHING YOU.
SFX HA HA
THIS IS BAD,
IT'S EXACTLY HOW THE NEWCOMER'S TOURNAMENT MATCH WENT.
WITH SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN PHYSIQUE, ONIMARU'LL BE THE FIRST ONE TO EXHAUST HIMSELF
WITH A CONTINUED GRAPPLE LIKE THIS.
NOT TO MENTION THE FATIGUE FROM THE SEMI-FINALS.
THERE'S ALSO THE INJURY WITH HIS LEFT ARM TO CONSIDER...

.....
BUT THERE ARE NO OPENINGS FOR HIM TO ATTACK...!
THE MORE TIME PASSES, THE MORE HE'S AT A DISADVANTAGE
SFX: HA... HA...
THIS IS TOUGH...
I CAN'T BREATHE...
IT'S LOOKING BAD...
IT HURTS...
HIS STRENGTH IS INCREDIBLE...
I'M SO TIRED...
HINOMARU...?
PRACTICING SUMO...
WHY ARE YOU...
THIS VOICE BELONGS TO...?
HINOMARU ZUMOU
...ROUND 148 / END